

WHEN DO YOU GET A BUILDING PERMIT

If you are thinking of building, remodeling, replacing, converting, or installing, this should help you answer some general questions on what you need a permit for and how to apply for one. The State of New York requires all municipalities in the State to adopt the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention Building Code. This is the requirement to obtain a permit and be in compliance with NYS and your municipality's Local Laws. To keep this simple, here is a list of the most common things a homeowner would need to know about permits. Please remember, if you are unsure always check with the Code Enforcement Officer, Ross Cortese, before you build.

1. **Decks, porches, entry ways:** all need building permits, even when completely tearing down and replacing with new.
2. **Swimming pools:** both in-ground and above-ground need a building permit. Also, fencing may be required along with the proper electrical inspection and pool alarms.
3. **Fencing:** A permit is not required.
4. **Garages and pole style buildings:** attached or unattached need building permits. Some may require fire separation.
5. **Sheds:** small, medium or large. Most need a permit, check with your local code enforcement officer.
6. **New homes, manufactured and modulars:** need a building permit.
7. **Commercial buildings:** need a building permit.
8. **Additions:** to almost any existing building or structure will require a permit. This includes: garages, decks, houses, sheds, and commercial structures.
9. **Structural changes:** all need a building permit. This would include replacement of all or sections of a foundation; repitch of a roof, new roof trusses or rafters, load bearing walls, headers, columns, piers, floor joists and any reconstruction whether existing or not.
10. **Roofs:** are a tricky area. New trusses, rafters, porch roofs, carports, etc. need a building permit. Check with your local code enforcement officer about overlays, tear offs, repairs, plywood replacement, etc.
11. **Siding:** use of vinyl siding, wooden clapboard, T-111, normally do not require a building permit.
12. **Windows and doors:** replacement windows and doors of the same size do not require a building permit. New windows, doors in a position that they were not in before, larger or smaller replacement windows and doors may need a building permit.
13. **Plumbing, heating, electrical:** all need a permit or some type of inspection. This is a very tricky area. In order to be sure it is done right the first time; please contact the Code Enforcement Officer. All wood stoves, furnaces and chimneys for solid fuel devices must have a building permit. All electrical work must be inspected; this is for your benefit 100%. New York Board of Fire Underwriters is among the most recommended firms that can do this for you. Contact Code Enforcement Officer for the phone numbers of approved electrical inspection agencies.
14. **Change of use:** if a building is being used for one type of use but will now be used for another (i.e., single family home to a two family or professional office to mercantile store), this is a change of use and will require a building permit.
15. **Handicapped accessibility:** applies to all new commercial construction and is a federal requirement as well as state and requires a permit.

This list is to try and clear up some general questions. Please use common sense, this list is not applicable in all cases and ALWAYS when in doubt or not quite sure, ASK OUR CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, Ross Cortese, 747-2188 x3008. It will always be cost effective to ask first then to do it wrong and have to change it again.